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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00680 271401 Z

51
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01

/080 W
---------- 064432
R 271300 Z JUN 73
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2743
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT, ENRG EC
SUBJ: AOHA# CASE OR LATEST RUMOR

1. WE HAVE PICKED UP AN INTERESTING REPORT FOLLOWING ACTION BY THE PRESENTLY- QUIESCENT ADA CASTE (GUAYAQUIL 475). GOE IS SAID TO BE AT THE POINT OF ARRESTING OTTO AROSEMENA FOR HIS ROLE IN LETTING THE GULF OF GUAYAQUIL HYDROCARBON CONCESSIONS. MOVE WILL REPORTEDLY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE 6 TH AND 15 TH OF JULY, BY WHICH TIME QUITO SPECIAL TRIBUNAL WHICH IS HANDLING THE CASE EXPECTS TO HAVE ASSEMBLED ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR AN AIRTIGHT PROSECUTION.
COURT IS SAID TO HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN CONVINCED OF AROSEMENA' S WRONG- DOING. HOWEVER, PROCEEDING WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC CAUTION, TRIBUNAL IS DETERMINED TO GET ALL ITS DUCKS IN A ROW BEFORE TAKING ACTION TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF SUBSEQUENT ACQUITTAL AND RELEASE WHICH WOULD AFFORD AROSEMENA INVALUABLE PUBLIC JUSTIFICATION
OF HIS ROLE IN THE ADA AFFAIR.

2. PRESSED REGARDING POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF SUCH A STEP, ESPECIALLY HERE IN GUAYAQUIL, SOURCE- PERHAPS REFLECTING POINT OF VIEW OF HIS INFORMANT- INDICATED NOTABLE LACK OF CONCERN. DESPITE CONSIDERATIONS OF MUTAL CLASS INTEREST, HE PREDICTED THAT GUAYAQUIL' S POLITICO- ECONOMIC ELITE WOULD STAND ASIDE WHILE AROSEMENA SINKS. GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD ASSUMPTION OF HIS GUILT
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AND THE MANY ENEMIES HE HAS ACCUMULATED, THIS IS QUITE POSSIBLE.

3. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PLACE MUCH RELIANCE ON SUPPOSED TIME-TABLE AS CIVILIAN INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE HAS JUST REQUESTED FURTHER 30- DAY EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FINDINGS. NEVERTHELESS, REPORT IS INTERESTING AS FURTHER INDICATION OF GOE PLANS TO FOLLOW ADA ACCUSATIONS TO THEIR LOGICAL CONCLUSION, AND OF SELF- CONFIDENCE VIS- A- VIS TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF COASTAL POLITICAL STRENGTH.
LUBENSKY

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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